

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A program product for use in a computer system that executes program steps recorded in a computer-readable medium to perform a method for updating database objects in a plurality of database servers in a distributed computing network, the program product comprising:

a recordable media for storing a program; and

the program of computer-readable instructions executable by the computer system to perform steps including:

receiving user specified database schema files for release to a list of corresponding database servers where modifications are to occur, wherein each schema file includes proposed database object structures;

verifying that the schema files contain valid DDL commands;

verifying that the user has proper permissions to modify the database object structures;

comparing existing database object structures to the proposed database object structures to determine if the existing database object structures need to be modified;

if the existing database object structures need to be modified, then generating and executing the appropriate commands to modify the existing database object structures;

creating release notes that include documentation related to modifications of the database object structures; and

sending the release notes to at least one predefined address.

2. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the program further performs the step of checking that each database server that has a structure modified has the modification occur during a prescribed release time.

3. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the program further performs the step of receiving a selection of database servers as locations where modifications are to occur.

4. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the program further performs the step of verifying each modification was performed successfully.

5. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the program further performs the steps of receiving a plurality of schema files and bundling the plurality of schema files into a module for simultaneous execution.

6. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the program further performs the step of verifying that the schema files meet predefined standards.

7. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the program further performs the step of parsing the schema files for sequential processing.

8. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the program further performs the step of maintaining a history of modifications to the database object structures.

9. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of verifying that the schema files contain valid DDL commands includes enforcing a rule that the DDL commands are not modifying any database object structures other than the database object structures that the schema files specify.

10. A program product as recited in Claim 1, wherein the program further performs the step of accessing identification files for identifying the database servers where modifications are occurring, wherein the identification files contain release permission information for each database object structure that is to be modified.

11. A method of managing a structure of database objects in a plurality of database servers in a distributed computing network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving user specified database schema files for release to a list of corresponding database servers where modifications are to occur, wherein each schema file includes proposed database object structures;

verifying that the schema files contain valid DDL commands;

verifying that the user has proper permissions to modify the database object structures;

comparing existing database object structures to the proposed database object structures to determine if the existing database object structures need to be modified;

if the existing database object structures need to be modified, then modifying the existing database object structures;

creating release notes that include documentation related to modifications of the

database object structures; and

sending the release notes to at least one predefined address.

12. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of checking that each database server that has a structure modified has the modification occur during a prescribed release time.

13. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of receiving a selection of database servers as locations where modifications are to occur.

14. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of verifying each modification was performed successfully.

15. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising the steps of receiving a plurality of schema files and bundling the plurality of schema files into a module for simultaneous execution.

16. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of verifying that the schema files meet predefined standards.

17. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of parsing the schema files for subsequent processing.

18. A computer network comprising:

a plurality of computers, wherein at least one of the computers has a cpu operatively connectd to memory for storing databases; and

a source control system on at least one of the computers for managing a structure of database objects in a plurality of database servers in a distributed computing network wherein the source control system is for:

receiving user specified database schema files for release to a list of corresponding database servers where modifications are to occur, wherein each schema file includes proposed database object structures;

verifying that the schema files contain valid DDL commands;

verifying that the user has proper permissions to modify the database object structures;

comparing existing database object structures to the proposed database object structures to determine if the existing database object structures need to be modified;

if the exising database object structures need to be modified, then modifying the existing database object structures;

creating release notes that include documentation related to modifications of the database object structures; and

sending the release notes to at least one predefined address.

19. A computer network as recited in Claim 18, wherein the computer network further performs the step of checking that each database server that has a structure modified has the modification occur during a prescribed release time.

20. A computer network as recited in Claim 18, wherein the computer network further performs the step of receiving a selection of database servers as locations where modifications are to occur.

21. A computer network as recited in Claim 18, wherein the computer network further performs the step of verifying each modification was performed successfully.

22. A computer network as recited in Claim 18, wherein the computer network further performs the steps of receiving a plurality of schema files and bundling the plurality of schema files into a module for simultaneous execution.

23. A computer network as recited in Claim 18, wherein the computer network further performs the step of verifying that the schema files meet predefined standards.

24. A computer network as recited in Claim 18, wherein the schema files for a particular database are grouped together in a directory having a name.

25. A computer network as recited in Claim 24, wherein the name is used for a name of the directory.

26. A source control system server for tracking a current release of any given object on a plurality of databases, the source control system server comprising:

a memory for storing a table and an instruction set;

a processor in communication with the memory, wherein the processor executes the instruction set to perform the following steps:

create and store a table in the memory;

if an object is successfully released to a destination, then record data about the object in the table; and

provide the table upon receiving a request from a user to view the table.

27. A source control server as recited in Claim 26, wherein the data is selected from the group consisting of an object name, a database name, a file type as an extension, a tag for the destination as determined by the source control system server, a previous tag if a row for the object already existed, data identifying a user who prompted release, and a time of the release.

28. A server in a computer system for updating database objects in a plurality of database servers in communication with the computer system, the server comprising:

a memory for storing a program;

a processor in communication with the memory for executing the program to perform the following steps:

if a database object structure on the plurality of database servers needs to be modified, then modify the existing database object structure;

create release notes that include documentation related to modifications of the database object structures; and

send the release notes to at least one predefined address.

29. A server as recited in Claim 28, wherein the server is further operative to perform the following steps:

receive user specified database schema files for release to a list of corresponding database servers where modifications are to occur, wherein each schema file includes proposed database object structures;

verify that the schema files contain valid DDL commands;

verify that the user has proper permissions to modify the database object structures; and

compare existing database object structures to the proposed database object structures to determine if the existing database object structures need to be modified.